

Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations

NC Department of Insurance

“Cooperative Agreements to Support Establishment of State Operated Health Insurance Exchanges” (CFDA 93.525)

General Assembly authorization – SL 2011-391 (Sec. 49)

- Session Law Directs DOI and DHHS to “...collaborate and plan in furtherance of the requirements of the ACA (Affordable Care Act).”
- Authorizes DOI to:
 - “...contract with experts, using available funds or grants...”; and
 - “...study insurance-related provisions of the ACA...”

DOI Action – Pursuant to GA direction, applied for & awarded funding

- Submitted Level 1 Exchange Application to USDHHS (June 30, 2011) and final revisions (October 12, 2011)
- Received Notice of Award – \$12,396,019 (Final Received October 26, 2011)
- All planning and development activities will transition to the Exchange, upon its legal establishment.

Fifteen fully-funded, full-time DOI positions ^{*} (1 year, time-limited)

- Exchange Planning Director (*Senior Deputy, Gr. 82, Salary \$98,500; Fringe[†] \$25,389*)
 - Responsible for completion of all grant-related activities
 - Supervises Interim Exchange Planning Section

^{*} No State funds of any kind are associated with these positions.

[†] Required SFY 2012 contribution rates for Social Security, Retirement, Medical.

- Serves as primary liaison between Exchange Planning activities and DOI management, other State agencies, and federal contacts
- Exchange Coordinator (*Administrative Officer I, Gr. 67, Salary \$43,940; Fringe \$14,057*)
 - Coordinates stakeholder meetings
 - Conducts research about efforts and activities in other states
 - Assists Interim Exchange Planning Section with planning activities
- Exchange Grant Manager (*Purchasing Technician, Gr. 64, Salary \$40,000; Fringe \$13,239*)
 - Performs accounting activities for federal Exchange funding
 - Manages grant budget
 - Responsible for purchasing, procurement for Interim Exchange Planning Section
- Exchange Administrative Assistant (*Office Assistant IV, Gr. 59, Salary \$32,232; Fringe \$11,626*)
 - Provides office support for Interim Exchange Planning Section
 - Schedules stakeholder meetings; Assists with purchasing orders
- Six Communication Specialists (*Salary \$52,040 budgeted; Fringe \$15,850 budgeted*)
 - Provide first line response to individuals and small businesses for information related to health insurance.
 - Answers questions regarding health plans for available coverage, informs consumers of their rights and responsibilities for coverage, provides information about the process for filing complaints and/or appeals
- Communication Specialist Supervisor (*Salary \$57,000 budgeted; Fringe \$16,887 budgeted*)
 - Supervises a team of communication specialists in order to ensure that consumers receive timely, accurate and thorough assistance with their health insurance-related inquiries
- Office Manager (*Salary \$40,000 budgeted; Fringe \$13,331 budgeted*)
 - Provides administrative functions and secretarial support for Communications Specialist Supervisor and Communications Specialist
- Two Exchange Outreach Liaisons (*Salary \$57,000 budgeted; Fringe \$16,887 budgeted*)
 - Develops strategies for public education and coordinates activities to educate groups on the plans, benefits, and requirements of the Exchange
- Education/Certification Specialist (*Salary \$42,000 budgeted; Fringe \$13,750 budgeted*)
 - Responsible for development of curriculum/training program for the NCHBE's navigators, including certification standards and protocol

TOTAL Salaries: \$779,912

TOTAL Fringe: \$237,153

Authorizing Legislation – Session Law 2011-391, Section 49

“Department of Insurance and Affordable Care Act.

“Section 23.3. It is the intent of the General Assembly to establish and operate a State-based health benefits Exchange that meets the requirements of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Public Law 111-148, as amended by the federal Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, Public Law 111-152, collectively referred to as the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The Department of Insurance (DOI) and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) may collaborate and plan in furtherance of the requirements of the ACA. DOI may contract with experts, using available funds or grants, necessary to facilitate preparation for an Information Technology system capable of performing requirements of the ACA.

The Commissioner of Insurance may also study the insurance-related provisions of the ACA and any other matters it deems necessary to successful compliance with the provisions of the ACA and related regulations. If the Commissioner of Insurance Conducts such a study, the Commissioner shall submit a report to the 2012 Regular Session of the 2011 General Assembly containing recommendations resulting from the study.”